

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 190606
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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE 0486

S E C R E T STATE 190606

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS) JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PGOV, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING

REF:A)CAIRO 17589; B) CAIRO 17776; C) STATE 188243

1. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING BY SEPTTEL, PROBABLY LATE
FRIDAY, TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO SADAT'S JULY 26
LETTER. MAIN PURPOSES ARE TO KEEP SADAT FROM IRREPARABLY
UNDERCUTTING NEXT TRILATERAL TALKS AND TO GET HIS ASSURANCE
BEFORE SECRETARY LEAVES WASHINGTON THAT SADAT WILL SEND
KAMEL AND GAMASY TO THESE TALKS.

2. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY YOUR JUDGEMENT THAT SADAT WILL
EVENTUALLY COME AROUND TO AGREEING TO KAMEL'S AND
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GAMASY'S ATTENDING MEETING WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN AT SFM
AND AGREE THAT HE NEEDS A BIT OF TIME TO SIMMER DOWN.
HOWEVER, THE MATTER MUST BE SETTLED AS SOON AS REASONABLY
POSSIBLE. WE MUST HAVE SADAT'S AGREEMENT TO A CONFERENCE
WELL BEFORE THE SECRETARY DEPARTS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. YOU WILL, OF COURSE, DELIVER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

RIGHT AWAY. WE LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGEMENT AS TO EXACTLY WHEN AND HOW TO GET SADAT'S FIRM ANSWER. THE LINE YOU HAVE TAKEN IS ENTIRELY THE RIGHT ONE: THE MEETING OF FOREIGN

AND DEFENSE MINISTERS IS OUR IDEA AND WILL BE HELD AT OUR INVITATION, NOT ISRAELIS, AND IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN OUR STRATEGY; ONLY IN CONTEXT OF SUCH MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CAN THE US PLAY ITS ROLE. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT ASKING SADAT FOR AN IMMEDIATE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS AGREEMENT TO SEND KAMEL AND GAMASY TO TRILATERAL MEETING, BUT WE WANT TO BE ASSURED FOR OUR OWN PLANNING PURPOSES THAT WE HAVE HIS AGREEMENT TO DOING SO.

4. AS SOON AS THIS POINT IS ESTABLISHED, YOU SHOULD -- AGAIN AT YOUR DISCRETION ON TIMING -- OUTLINE TO SADAT HOW WE VISUALIZE SECRETARY'S VISIT (STATE 188243) AND NEXT TRILATERAL TALKS. SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND TO SFM AS LOCATION OF TRILATERAL TALKS. ON LATTER POINT, WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME EGYPTIANS OBJECT TO SFM AS SITE BECAUSE THEY SEE IT SOME HOW AS "MEETING IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY". WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS ARGUMENT BECAUSE (1) SFM IS IN TERRITORY FROM WHICH ISRAEL HAS COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AND (2) MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER US FLAG AND AUSPICES IN UN BUFFER ZONE.

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5. FINALLY, WE NEED EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON HOW TO HANDLE THESE POINTS PUBLICLY. FIRST, WE NEED TO ANNOUNCE DATES OF SECRETARY'S TRIP ASAP. SECOND, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY SECRETARY WILL BE DISCUSSING TRILATERAL TALKS AND WE WILL BE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBLE MEETING AT SFM. CHRISTOPHER

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